

**THE STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR THE HEALING ARTS  
STATE OF MISSOURI**

STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION	)	
FOR THE HEALING ARTS,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
vs.	)	Case No. 2007- 001914
	)	
	)	
PAUL A. LESSLER, M.D.	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND  
ORDER REVOKING THE LICENSE OF PAUL A. LESSLER, M.D.**

The Missouri State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts, pursuant to notice and at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 16, 2009, took up a complaint alleging that Paul A. Lessler, M.D., had been convicted of a felony, and was therefore subject to license revocation pursuant to the provisions of § 334.103.1 RSMo.

The Board was represented by its general counsel, Sreenu Dandamudi. Dr. Lessler was not present and no one appeared on his behalf. Glenn Bradford served as the Board's legal advisor at the hearing, during deliberations, and in preparing this Order. Testimony was adduced, exhibits were received into evidence, and the argument of counsel was heard. The Board now enters its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order Revoking the Physician and Surgeon License of Paul A. Lessler, M.D.

### **Findings of Fact**

1. The Board of Registration for the Healing Arts (Board) is an agency of the State of Missouri, created and established pursuant to § 334.120 RSMo., for the purpose of executing and enforcing the provisions of Chapter 334, RSMo.

2. The Respondent, Paul A. Lessler, M.D., is licensed by the Board as a physician and surgeon, license number R8N22. This license was first issued on October 30, 1990.

3. On or about May 24, 2007, the Respondent entered a plea of guilty in the United States District Court for the Central District of California to two counts of Medicare fraud by violating 18 U.S.C. §§ 1347 and 2. Defrauding Medicare is an offense reasonably related to the qualifications, functions and duties of a licensed physician. Furthermore, fraud is an offense involving moral turpitude.

4. On or about May 24, 2007, the Respondent entered a plea of guilty in the United States District Court for the Central District of California to one count of Conspiracy to Defraud the United States by violating 18 U.S.C. § 371. The conspiracy in this matter was based on the Medicare fraud cited in the paragraph above. Because this conspiracy is based on Medicare fraud, it is an offense reasonably related to the qualifications, functions and duties of a licensed physician. Furthermore, fraud is an offense involving moral turpitude.

5. The maximum prison sentence for violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1347 (when no bodily injury occurs as described in 18 U.S.C § 1365) is ten years, which makes this a Class C felony pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3559(a)(3).

6. The maximum sentence for violation of 18. U.S.C. § 371 is five years, which makes this a Class D felony pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3559(a)(4).

7. The felony offenses are reasonably related to the qualifications, functions or duties of the profession; and were for felony offenses of which essential elements were fraud or dishonesty; and involved moral turpitude.

8. A copy of the complaint and notice of the instant hearing were mailed to Dr. Lessler by first class mail. The first class mail piece was presumptively delivered to Dr. Lessler. Dr. Lessler had notice of this hearing.

### **Conclusions of Law**

A. Dr. Lessler committed felony criminal offenses reasonably related to the qualifications, functions or duties of the profession; of which essential elements were fraud or dishonesty; and involving moral turpitude.

B. Pursuant to the provisions of § 334.103.1 RSMo., the Board has no choice in these circumstances but to revoke Dr. Lessler's license as a physician and surgeon.

C. Pursuant to § 334.100.5 RSMo., in any order of revocation the Board may provide that the person may not apply for reinstatement of the person's license for a period of time ranging from two to seven years following the date of the order of revocation; stay orders toll this time period.

### **Disciplinary Order**

Upon the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law, it is the decision and order of the State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts that the physician's license of Paul A. Lessler, M.D. be and is hereby REVOKED.

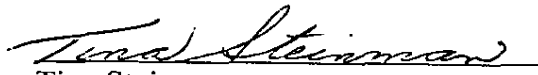
Dr. Lessler shall immediately cease the practice of the healing arts, and shall within ten days of the date of this order return all indicia of licensure to the Board.

Dr. Lessler shall not apply for reinstatement for a period of seven years from the date of this order, and any premature application for reinstatement shall be summarily rejected under the authority of this order.

Dr. Lessler is cautioned that his obedience to the terms of this order and his discharge of his professional obligation to transfer his patients' care and records to other physicians will be assessed by the Board upon any application for reinstatement.

So ordered this 23 day of January, 2009.

**State Board of Registration for the  
Healing Arts**

  
Tina Steinman  
Executive Director